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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 11, line 11, "water," has been deleted and water. has been inserted therefor.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While it is known in the art to provide a leaf trap device for use with a swimming pool having a water recirculation system, the leaf trap device being connectable to the water recirculation system and comprising a tank having a water inlet opening through which water from the swimming pool can enter the tank, a water outlet opening through which water can be discharged from the tank and a leaf discharge opening through which leaves which collect in the tank, in use, can be discharged from the tank; a filter device that is located in the tank for separating leaves from water entering the tank through the water inlet opening, the filter device being operable to allow the passage of water but preventing the passage of leaves therethrough, the filter device having a configuration which divides the tank into a first compartment in which said water inlet opening and said leaf discharge opening are located and wherein leaves entering the tank are trapped, in use; and a second compartment in which said water outlet opening

is located (see, for example, US Pat No 5,554,277 to Rief et al.), and it is known in the art to provide a discharge valve that is located in a discharge opening and that is displaceable between an open condition wherein water in the tank and debris in the first compartment thereof can be discharged from the tank, and a closed condition wherein the discharge opening is closed off (see, for example, US Pat No 242,407 to Zuber), in the examiner's opinion, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest providing the above elements in combination with control means that is connectable to a pump of the water recirculation system for switching the pump on and off and that is operable to control opening and closing of the discharge valve.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred Prince whose telephone number is (571) 272-1165. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:30-4:00; alt. Fridays 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Fred Prince
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

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